

HONORING T.C. FREEMAN

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish a very happy birthday to someone who has a long and distinguished record of service to our country and to the Commonwealth of Kentucky. This lady has spent a majority of her life connected to United States Army. At 80 years young, she currently serves as a civilian aide for the United States Army in Kentucky. Of course, I am referring to Mrs. T.C. Freeman who recently celebrated her 80th Birthday on March 10th.

T.C. Freeman's life has revolved around our Army since 1941 when Killeen, Texas was designated the home of Camp Hood. She met and married her husband, Colonel Bob Freeman (Ret) when he was assigned to the 3d Artillery, 2nd Armored Division at Fort Hood. She and Bob have three children, a daughter Gil, and two sons William and Robert.

For her efforts on behalf of Soldiers during Desert Shield/Desert Storm, T.C. Freeman was awarded Association of the United States Army's Citation for Exceptional Service. In 2002, she received their Anthony Drexel Bidle Medal, which is their second-highest award. She served as Tennessee/Kentucky Chapter President of the Association of the United States Army for two years, and as the Kentucky State President for two years. She also served four years as the 2nd Region President and now once again serves as a Kentucky State President.

T.C. Freeman is a life member of the Association of the United States Army. She is an honorary member of the 502nd, the 187th Infantry, the 327th and 506th Infantry Regiments. She is also an honorary member of the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment and of the 5th Special Forces Group. She holds the Anne Morrow Lindberg Award and the Honorable Order of Our Lady of Loretta for her support of Army Aviation and the Aviation Community. She is a Life Member of Army Aviation Association of America.

Mrs. Freeman is also the recipient of Artillery's Molly Pitcher Award and Department of the Army Awards for Public Service and the Outstanding Civilian Service Medal. In 2010, she received the Daughters of the American Revolution's Medal of Honor.

T.C. began the "Welcome Home Flights" after Desert Shield/Desert Storm and she has attended almost every flight following—from Kosovo and from other 101st Deployments, to include the recent Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home on August 16, 2009.

Presently, she is welcoming home Division Units from Afghanistan and attends National Guard farewells and welcome homes. She is a supporter of Fisher House and the Wounded Warrior Programs. T.C. Freeman has visited our Warrior Heroes at both Walter Reed and Brooke in San Antonio.

Since May 2005, T.C. has served as a member of the Executive Committee of the Governor's Kentucky Military Affairs Commission. The Commission keeps the Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky advised of conditions and needs of the installation. She was pleased to be involved last December in the event that named Governor Steve Beshear

as an Honorary Screaming Eagle. She serves on the Board of Directors of the Fort Campbell Historical Foundation, the Hopkinsville-Christian County Military Affairs Committee, The Christian County School Superintendents Advisory and the Military Affairs Advisory Committee of the Chamber of Commerce, and she is a member of the Citizens for Fort Campbell and an Eagle Ambassador.

T.C. Freeman is a regular attendee of area Veteran's organizations, VFW, DAV and the American Legion.

Since being named a Kentucky Court Appointed Special Advocate, her efforts are not limited to Fort Campbell. She now actively supports activities of the Units at Fort Knox to include United States Army Recruiting Command and the 3rd Brigade of the 1st Infantry Division.

Mrs. Freeman has also been faithful in her support of the National Guard, the Army Reserve, University and Junior ROTC Units.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to the attention of this House T.C. Freeman's remarkable life of faithful service to our Nation's heroes. She is a personal friend, but more importantly a friend to every man and woman who wears our Nation's uniform. It is my honor to recognize her before this House and to wish her a very Happy 80th Birthday.

IN RECOGNITION OF NAM VETS
ASSOCIATION

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Nam Vets Association upon its thirtieth anniversary.

Nam Vets has been providing vital assistance to veterans since the association was founded in 1983. Originally serving veterans of the Vietnam War exclusively, Nam Vets has since expanded and now serves veterans from all eras. Over the years, it has become known as a local gateway to veterans' services for Cape Cod and the Islands, assisting veterans with important tasks such as finding employment and housing, receiving medical care, and obtaining employment.

Coinciding with the thirtieth anniversary of Nam Vets is the opening of its new Veterans' Outreach Grace Center (VOGC) in New Seabury. The VOCG will be a general wellness center through which veterans will receive a variety of services. Such support will include physical, psychological, educational, financial, or vocational assistance aimed at helping veterans reintegrate into civilian life. This Center will play a vital role on Cape Cod once it opens its doors to our local veterans, and I commend Nam Vets for working to achieve this important goal. I am certain that the organization's next thirty years will be bright.

Mr. Speaker, it brings me great pleasure to recognize Nam Vets upon its thirtieth anniversary. The many years of service that the organization has provided have been invaluable to the veterans and families that have been affected by its work. I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking Nam Vets for all that the association has given to its community.

RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING THE
POSTHUMOUS AWARD OF THE
MEDAL OF HONOR TO SERGEANT
RAFAEL PERALTA

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of a resolution recommending the posthumous award of the Medal of Honor to one of America's bravest soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice, Sergeant Rafael Peralta.

Sgt. Peralta's story is the epitome of what makes America great generation after generation. After immigrating as a teenager with his family from Mexico to San Diego, Sgt. Peralta joined the Marines the first chance he was able to—the morning he received his green card. According to his mother, Rosa Peralta, Sgt. Peralta "really loved this country" and loved being a Marine. In fact, he passed along his love for the Marines to his brother, Ricardo, who kept a promise he made at his brother's funeral by enlisting in the Marines Corps in 2010.

In 2004, Sgt. Peralta was killed during a house-clearing mission in Fallujah, Iraq. According to news reports, during a firefight with insurgents, a fragment from a friendly-fire bullet ricocheted and struck Sgt. Peralta in the back of his head. According to eyewitness accounts from fellow Marines who were at the scene, Sgt. Peralta, despite his mortal wound, pulled an enemy grenade under his body and absorbed the ensuing blast. By doing so, he saved the lives of an estimated six of his fellow Marines.

Each of the armed services has provisions for judging whether an individual is eligible for the Medal of Honor—which permit no margin of doubt or error. Historically, the individual's action must be supported by incontestable evidence of at least two eyewitnesses. In Sgt. Peralta's case, seven eyewitnesses confirmed that he smothered the grenade blast with his body. Even though a pathologist report questioned whether Sgt. Peralta could have deliberately brought the grenade to his body due to his wound, separate analyses by three neurologists opined otherwise. His Navy Cross citation, the second highest American military decoration that can be awarded to a Marine, says it all: "Without hesitation and with complete disregard for his own personal safety, Sergeant Peralta reached out and pulled the grenade to his body, absorbing the brunt of the blast and shielding fellow Marines only feet away.

Sgt. Peralta exemplified and lived the values Americans hold dear: honor, duty, and dedication to his country. In a letter written right before his death, Sgt. Peralta told his brother, "I'm proud to be a Marine, a U.S. Marine, and to defend and protect the freedom and Constitution of America. You should be proud of being an American citizen."

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution and recommend the posthumous award of the Medal of Honor to a true American hero, Sgt. Rafael Peralta.